

BANNAN, Sak i al-

PALESTINE

50/48/

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RR RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
TSVA177
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DE RUEHCR #0301 0371400
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 060930Z FEB 79
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7511
INFO RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1720
RUDKAR/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 15
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 1270
BT

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E.O. 12065: GDS 2/6/85 (PECK, EDWARD L.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, IZ
SUBJ:(C) WHEREABOUTS OF ABU NIDAL

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. ROMANIAN EMBOFF MATEI CORNELIU HAS ASKED WHETHER WE HAVE INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF PALESTINIAN TERRORIST LEADER ABU NIDAL. CORNELIU SAID THAT ABU NIDAL WAS IN BEIRUT, ACCORDING TO HIS MOST RECENT INFORMATION. RECENT DEPARTURE FROM BAGHDAD TO BEIRUT OF ABU NIDAL'S ASSISTANT, DDAU HMO UD, HAS CAUSED ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE TO WONDER WHETHER AN ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN MADE WHICH MIGHT ALLOW ABU NIDAL TO RETURN TO IRAQ. CORNELIU TELLS US THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FEARS IT MAY BE TARGET OF PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ACTIVITY. USINT OFFICER REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO RECENT INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF ABU NIDAL.

3. CORNELIU HAS RAISED SIMILAR QUESTIONS WITH US BEFORE. BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION, HE IS A SECOND SECRETARY WITH VISA RESPONSIBILITY, WE CHECKED WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR WHO SAID THAT CORNELIU WAS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH US.

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4. REQUEST GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD RESPOND
TO THIS APPROACH AND, IF SO, WHAT WE SHOULD BE
PREPARED TO SAY.
PECK

END OF MESSAGE

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